

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 31, 1999

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 24, 1999

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 6, 1999

Senate Joint Resolution

No. 17

Introduced by Senator Haynes

May 17, 1999

Senate Joint Resolution No. 17—Relative to child sexual abuse.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 17, as amended, Haynes. Child sexual abuse.

This measure would respectfully urge the President and Congress to reject and condemn any suggestions that sexual relations between children and adults, *except for legal marriage relationships*, are anything but abusive, destructive, exploitive, reprehensible, and punishable by law. The measure would also request the American Psychological Association to repudiate and disassociate itself from any organization, publication, or report that advocates sexual interaction between children and adults, or any study that suggests or claims that sexual relationships between adults and children are not harmful.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Children are a precious gift and
2 responsibility; and
3 WHEREAS, The spiritual, physical, and mental
4 well-being of children is our sacred duty; and

1 WHEREAS, No segment of our society is more critical
2 to the future of human survival and society than our
3 children; and

4 WHEREAS, It is the obligation of all public
5 policymakers not only to support, but also to defend the
6 health and rights of parents, families, and children; and

7 WHEREAS, Information endangering to children is
8 being made public and, in some instances, may be given
9 unwarranted or unintended credibility through release
10 under professional titles or through professional
11 organizations; and

12 WHEREAS, Elected officials have a duty to inform and
13 counter actions they consider damaging to children,
14 parents, families, and society; and

15 WHEREAS, California has made sexual molestation of
16 a child a felony and has declared parents who sexually
17 molest their children to be unfit; and

18 WHEREAS, Virtually all studies in this area, including
19 those published by the American Psychological
20 Association, condemn child sexual abuse as criminal and
21 harmful to children; and

22 WHEREAS, The American Psychological Association
23 in July 1998, published a review of 59 studies of college
24 aged students which may be construed to indicate that
25 some sexual relationships between adults and children
26 may be less harmful than believed, and that some of the
27 college students viewed their experiences as positive at
28 the time they occurred, or positive when reflecting back
29 on them; and

30 WHEREAS, The American Psychological Association is
31 a highly respected organization, and by publishing a
32 professional opinion, the association lends legitimacy to
33 any issue; now, therefore, be it

34 *Resolved by the Senate and Assembly of the State of*
35 *California, jointly, That the Legislature respectfully*
36 *urges the President and Congress to reject and condemn,*
37 *in the strongest honorable written and vocal terms*
38 *possible, any suggestions that sexual relations between*
39 *children and adults, except for those that may be legal in*
40 *the various states under statutes pertaining to marriage,*

1 are anything but abusive, destructive, exploitive,
2 reprehensible, and punishable by law; and be it further

3 *Resolved*, That the Legislature condemns and
4 denounces any interpretation of the recently published
5 study entitled “A Meta-Analytic Examination of Assumed
6 Properties of Child Sexual Abuse Using College Samples,”
7 which ~~advocate~~ *advocates* that sexual relationships
8 between adults and children are not harmful and are
9 even positive for children; and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages competent
11 investigations to continue to research the effects of child
12 sexual abuse using the best methodology so that the
13 public and public policymakers may act upon accurate
14 information; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the Legislature requests that the
16 American Psychological Association denounce the report
17 it recently published regarding child sexual abuse; and be
18 it further

19 *Resolved*, That the Legislature requests that the
20 American Psychological Association repudiate and
21 disassociate itself from any organization, publication, or
22 report that advocates sexual interaction between
23 children and adults and any study that suggests or
24 otherwise claims that sexual relationships between adults
25 and children are not harmful; and be it further

26 *Resolved*, That the Legislature requests California
27 defense attorneys and California courts to disregard the
28 study when dealing with cases involving child abuse and
29 child molestation; and be it further

30 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit
31 copies of this resolution to the President and Vice
32 President of the United States, the Governor of
33 California, the majority leader of the Senate, the Speaker
34 of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and
35 Representative from California in the Congress of the
36 United States.

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